Fixing the number of BPL families for States

*33. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has fixed the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households for States and told them not to exceed this limit while conducting the census to identify such families;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that with several States reeling under severe drought, the BPL figures have soared and the Centre's move is bound to keep several families out of the list of beneficiaries;

(c) whether some Chief Ministers have written to Centre in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The BPL Census is to identify the rural poor for targeting them under the normal programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. The drought and other natural calamities are to be addressed separately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Governments of Rajasthan and Kerala have requested the Union Government to relax the ceiling fixed for BPL households.

Dual citizenship to NRIs residing in Gulf countries

*34. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to offer dual citizenship to the People of Indian Origin who have settled abroad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government are thinking not to offer dual citizenship to some of the NRIs residing in some of the Gulf countries;

(c) if so. the details of the countries which have been barred from this offer; and

(d) the reasons for denying dual citizenship to Indians who are residing in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendation made by the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora Government has decided to introduce dual citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955 for persons of Indian Origin who have acquired the citizenship of certain countries. The details and the modalities are being worked out.

Peace talks with Naga leaders

*35. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NSCN (l-M) leaders came to India and met the Prime Minister and a few other Ministers of the government in January this year;

(b) if so, the details of the talks and the purpose of the visit;

(c) whether the secessionist leaders pressed for the grant of greater Nagaland as a pre-condition for peace in the N.E. Region and if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what was the final outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Peace Talks were held during the month of January 2003 between the representatives of the Government of India and the NSCN(IM). During the discussions, NSCN(IM) raised among other issues, their demands relating to the distinct identity of the Nagas and their stand on unification of Naga areas. There was an agreement to continue the formal talks until a lasting settlement is reached. Meanwhile, both sides reaffirmed the need for a peaceful, violence-free environment. Government of India has, from time to time, reiterated its stand that territorial integrity of other North Eastern States will not be disturbed.